

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this case. Claims 1, 2 and 6-8 have been rejected. Claims 3 - 5 and 9 have been objected to. Claims 10 - 17 have been allowed. Claims 1, 3 and 9 have been amended to more particularly point out the subject matter claimed by the Applicant as his invention. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings. Figure 1 has been amended to more clearly show the location of the bottom ring 38 as being underneath the top surface of the spool housing 34 and top ring 39 being above the top surface of the spool housing 34.

The Examiner has objected to the specification. Page 5 of the specification has been amended to remove reference numeral "20."

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Ballas et al. Claim 1, as currently amended, requires that forcing the spool of line towards the bottom of the spool housing against the bias is to provide automatic line feed of the line on the spool. The element in Ballas which is cited by the Examiner as forcing the spool towards the bottom of the spool housing, namely element 55a, is to allow a user to manually feed the line from the spool, see Col. 10, lines 27 - 32. Ballas does not teach or suggest a system which automatically feeds line from the spool within the spool housing.

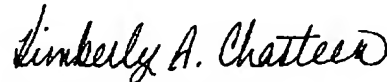
The Examiner has rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ballas et al. in view of Nakamura et al. Claim 7, which depends from currently amended claim 1, requires that forcing the spool of line towards the bottom of the spool housing against the bias is to provide automatic line feed of the line on the spool. As discussed above, the element in Ballas which is cited by the Examiner as forcing the spool towards the bottom of the spool housing, namely element 55a, is to allow a user to manually feed the line from the spool, see Col. 10, lines 27 - 32. The device in Nakamura uses blades for cutting rather than line so there is no line feed mechanism, manual or automatic, disclosed in Nakamura. The combination of Ballas

and Nakamura does not teach or suggest a system which automatically feeds line from the spool within the spool housing.

The Examiner has objected to claims 3-5 and 9 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claim 3, which previously depended from independent claim 1, has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of claim 1. Claims 4 and 5 depend from amended claim 3. As such, the objections to these claims have been overcome by the amendments to claim 3. Claim 9, which previously depended from independent claim 1 and intermediate claim 8, has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of claim 1 and claim 8.

All claims now in the application are deemed patentably distinguishable over the art applied and noted, but not relied upon. Accordingly, allowance of the application is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly A. Chasteen  
Reg. No. 36,755

November 26, 2003

(757) 249-5100

Williams Mullen  
1 Old Oyster Point Road, Suite 210  
Newport News, VA 23692

Drawing Correction  
Approved  
107  
7/9/04

Figure 1

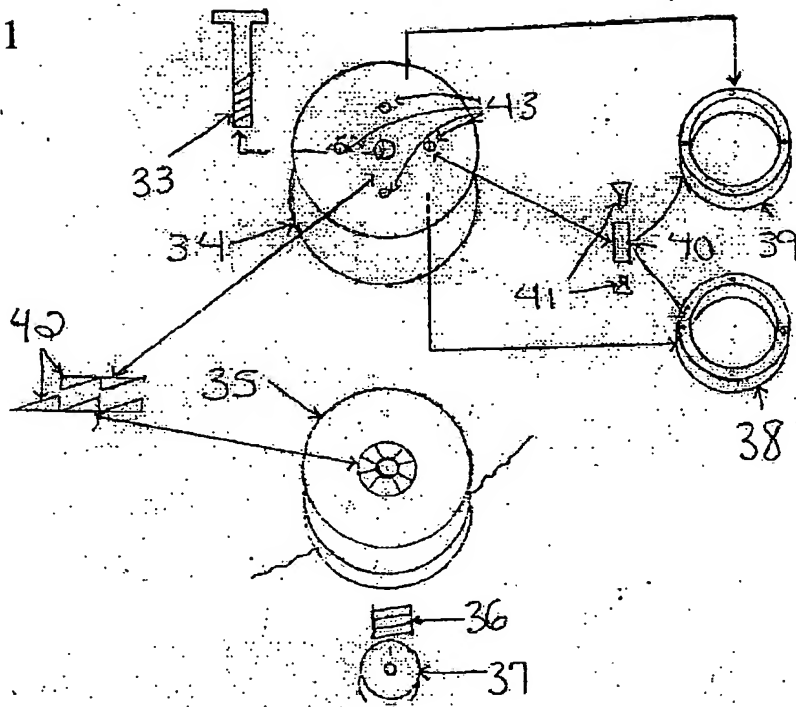


Figure 2

